

## PASSING THOUGHTS.

## III.

I don't know what the profession will come to in time, but at present it appears to be in a pitiable state. Here we find a man willing to lend himself out at tempest the hour to work books, write out accounts, and measure works—he calls himself forthwith a licensed surveyor! What this may be I cannot tell, but if men are licensed to pick pockets, it's an odd practice of our government,—for what is this but picking pockets? Does not this man work at a price which no man of his calling would do, and thereby get the employment which perhaps three or four ought to share? I hope, for the credit of the builders, this is not the case, and that this "cheap Jack" of the building profession will try to get employment by more honourable means than those which he now adopts, for if he is such a clever fellow as he pretends to be, he surely can get employment in some establishment where his services would be rewarded handsomely. He has only to advertise in the proper manner, and I doubt not he would meet with a situation.

## IV.

Perhaps in a passing note or two I may be allowed to address a few remarks to the "B.A.A.D." I do so, however, with the greatest humility, and I hope those members who do not agree with me, will at least own that my efforts are for the general good of all. I do not know the objects of the society at present, but instead (if circumstances do not prevent) to avail myself of its supposed advantages by becoming a member at the commencement of the ensuing year. In the meantime, perhaps, the following remarks may have some weight:—

Would it not be advisable to publish the rules and regulations, or at least the object of the society, in *THE BUILDER*? as, by this means, many would become acquainted with its advantages which otherwise they would not take the trouble to look after.

If the laws are not already drawn up, I would suggest that members be admitted only by outline drawings, or such as have merely a slight tint; that drawings of effect a la Stansfeld, be ineligible at an election for a member. The necessity of this is obvious—an architectural draughtsman is necessarily an outline draughtsman, and where effect of colour is studied, the superior claims of heat outline are disregarded, much to the injury of a good draughtsman.

I conceive that the architectural draughtsman might have a public exhibition of their drawings annually, where not only coloured drawings be admitted, but also outlines, but in a separate room. The necessity of this is obvious to every one. By these means outline drawing would be much more encouraged than it is at present; for although the heads of the profession, and especially our respected professor teaches the necessity of correct outline, yet we do not see any such drawings at the exhibition in the Academy, which would seem to say that outline drawings were held in low estimation, and that coloured drawings were the more pretty of the two, and therefore the more to be encouraged.

The advantages of an exhibition of this kind would be very great, independent of the presumable profits arising from the exhibition, as architects would go there to select their draughtsmen, for one room might be set apart for the drawings of members wanting situations.

I think if measures were taken immediately we might have an exhibition next year. I, for one, although not a member, should feel happy and proud to send an outline drawing, and I have no doubt many more would respond to the call.

## V.

A great deal is now said and writing about which style of architecture we ought to adopt, but I humbly submit that we ought not to adopt any style that exists at present, but invent a new style, and not copy or cobble either Greek or Gothic, however much Von Klenze may be in favour of the one, or Von Pugin in favour of the other. Gird, I often work myself into a fever with thinking that generation after generation are passing away and no new style—nothing to distinguish the buildings

of one century from another except it is the villanous taste displayed in some of them. But I think a spirit of originality is abroad, and we may hope for better things. For instance, I cannot help thinking, as I pass the new Royal Exchange, that a new style is attempted, something which might beasly enough termed the *modern and rustic style of architecture*, (being a style which the gastronomic aldermen "so much admire"), for the mouldings and enrichments of the various fronts are fat, bulky, and original, and the enrichment which takes the place of the modillions in the raking cornice of the pediment, seems at first sight like so many turtles suspended by their beaks, with their feet sprawling out from the soffite of the cornice. The fat turtle aldermen, I should say, admire this building; in fact, if we are to believe the greater part of the public press, the Royal Exchange is the finest modern building in London. The turtle and venison style! What next? The spirit of originality of course will not rest here.

J. L. C.

## LECTURES ON ARCHITECTURE AND ANTIQUITIES.\*

## LECTURE II.

THE greatest monarchies which have ever existed arose in Asia, a quarter of the world which has always been famous for its immense population and its enormous wealth. These were the means, therefore, directed to construct the mighty fabrics whose ruins exist at this day, exciting the astonishment of the beholder, and inducing him to inquire into the causes of their destruction. To the sacred volume he must then turn for an answer to his question—he will there find denunciations uttered when the welfare of the proudest dynasties was at its height; threats of overthrow against the wealthiest cities in the midst of their prosperity; prophetic warnings delivered centuries before their accomplishment. Are they not fulfilled? Has one word even failed of the minutest description? No. The traveller can scarcely find the site of Nineveh, "that exceeding great city of three days' journey" (Jonah iii. 3). In Babylon, "the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees' excellency" (Isaiah xlii. 19), is literally fulfilled the prediction that it should be made "heaps," and "a burnt mountain." (Jer. li. 26.) Tyre, "the crowning city, whose merchants were princes, whose traffickers were the honourable of the earth" (Isaiah xxiii. 8), Tyre is no more,—it is only "a place for the spreading of nets." (Ezekiel xvi. 5.) We shall, however, more particularly notice the various predictions against these and other places, and their exact fulfilment, in their due order. I have spoken of the great monarchies of Asia, but in Africa we find the ruins of one which was as ancient, as powerful, as prosperous, but now as desolate,—EGYPT. The opinion is every day gaining ground, that to this ancient kingdom the world is indebted not merely for a knowledge of arts and commerce, but likewise for architecture; for this reason I purpose to make this country the scene of our first inquiry. Wonderful are the remains of temples and tombs which are now extant in Egypt, ancient historians assert that others, which no longer exist, greatly surpassed them. What are we then to think of the energies of a people who could rear such piles, when those which remain are distinguished as much for the delicacy of the workmanship as for the beauty of their design and their magnitude? Have we not a right to consider Egypt as the nursing mother of science, and the cradle of the arts, affording types and models from which succeeding ages have derived nearly all that is useful and much that is ornamental, without acknowledging their obligations to the original inventors?

It is generally supposed that Mizraim, the son of Ham, the son of Noah, led a colony into, and founded a kingdom in Egypt, B.C. 2190. Now the Assyrian kingdom was not founded till 2059 years B.C. Athens was founded by Cecrops, who was a native of Egypt, 1536 B.C. Egypt therefore is the earliest recorded kingdom, and it must soon have made great progress in agriculture, as we find that Abraham went down there (Gen. xii. 10) when there was a famine in the land of Canaan. This was about 1921 years B.C. (Jim. Antiq. b. i. c. 8.) Fertilised by the over-

flowings of the Nile, which left in its alluvial deposits treasures of inestimable worth upon the thirsting soil it covered periodically, Egypt soon became the great corn granary of the world. The inhabitants of Canaan were chiefly shepherds, and the wealth of the patriarchs consisted mostly of their flocks and herds, the land therefore was principally pasture. But Egypt appears to have been almost entirely arable, and its inhabitants corn-farmers, and when Joseph's family came to settle in the land of plenty, they were placed in Goshen, remote from the Egyptians, to whom it is said "every shepherd was an abomination." (Gen. xli. 34.) This antipathy was in consequence of the land having been conquered by a race of Ethiopian shepherds who founded a dynasty in Egypt, 1837 B.C. Of its ample supply in the most important article of food, we find frequent mention. The famous provision made by the foresight of Joseph is well known,—on this occasion it is said that "all countries came into Egypt to Joseph for to buy corn." (Gen. xli. 57.) During the time that the Israelites were in bondage they were employed in making bricks, straw being used for that purpose; and we know that barley, rye, and flax, were grown. The wealth of Egypt was greatly increased by her connection with the Tyrians, whose ships conveyed the produce of the bountiful Nile to all parts of the world. Egypt is said (by Calaneo) to have furnished Rome annually twenty millions of bushels of corn. Among the miracles wrought by the hand of Moses is one which must have excited the deepest horror among the Egyptians. I mean the turning of the river into blood. Travellers have always spoken with admiration of the sweetness of the waters of the Nile. Moser says, "All who have tasted of this water allow that they never met with the like in any other place; it has in it something so inexpressibly pleasing and agreeable, that we ought to give it the same class among waters as we do champagne among wines." Harmer also alludes to it, and states "that the Turks will eat salt on purpose to create thirst, that they may slake it at this river." The pollution, therefore, of that river, so pure in itself, so delightful to the eye and taste, which on account of the innumerable blessings of which it was the fruitful source, was worshipped by the natives as a god (in a Greek inscription found in front of the Great Sphinx, the river is termed a *God*), the turning of its life-imparting and wealth-bestowing waters into blood, loathsome to the sight, offensive in every respect, this miracle one would think must have carried conviction to Pharaoh's mind, did we not read that it was emphatically said, "his heart was hardened."

It will be seen by a reference to the map of Egypt, that this celebrated river, after passing through Abyssinia, where Bruce discovered its source, and Ethiopia, or Nubia, traverses the entire length of the country, from Syene (mentioned in Ezekiel xxx. 10), at the 24th degree of latitude, until it discharges its waters through numerous mouths (formerly seven, to which number allusion is made in Scripture) into the Mediterranean Sea. That part which lies between Syene (now *Ei Suwan*) where are the cataracts, and the ancient granite quarries, and Philæ is generally called Upper Egypt (now *Sud*), also known as the Thebais; the central division, from Philæ to the ancient Heliopolis, or "On" of Scripture (Gen. xli. 45), now Grand Cairo, bore the name of Heliopolis (having seven *comades*), likewise Middle Egypt, now *Valouta*; the remaining portion, from Cairo to the sea, is called Lower Egypt. We find that, great as the length of the country is, about 77 geographical degrees, the breadth of that part which was thickly populated is comparatively trifling, as nearly all the principal cities were built close to the Nile. Some of the mightiest works of this great people are to be found in Upper Egypt, where we will therefore make our first search into the remains of their temples and other extraordinary edifices. Little was known of the actual state of Egyptian architecture until Bonaparte invaded the country, and however posterity may differ about the character of that wonderful man, whose career was as dazzling as that of a meteor, and whose fall was as rapid as that of a shooting star, to him we are indebted for opening to us many of the hidden secrets of antiquity. The prospect of conquering the ancient kingdom of the Pharaohs was

\* Continued from page 87.

\* Latrobe.